

Torrance, California
July 8, 1952

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Tuesday, July 8, 1952, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

Mayor Schwab asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24th be corrected to change the hearing date in Resolution 2286 for the annexation of the Kettler Knolls property to July 29th. Councilman Drale moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

The Mayor announced the time had come for the third and final hearing on Planning Commission Case No. 237 -- petition of Southern California Edison Company for a change of zone at 190th and Western from A-1 to M-2. There being no protests, oral or written, Councilman Spelman moved the hearing be closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman

Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the petition. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by the roll call vote of those present.

Mayor Schwab announced that this was the time set for the Budget hearing. City Manager Stevens reported there had been no change since the estimated budget had been submitted as the City had received no additional information from the County on assessed valuations, and that as of July 1st, the City was operating on the tentative budget. A letter from the Budget Study Committee of Torrance Unified Taxpayers was read protesting the increase in tax rate for the new fiscal year. Mr. R.I. Plomert, President of the local Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber believed the proposed appropriation of \$5,000 to be inadequate "to meet the demands of the services of the Chamber of Commerce" and asked that the Council give the matter further study. Mr. Isenberg, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, elaborating on the need for greater promotion to attract new industry to Torrance and keep our residents employed locally, requested an appropriation of at least \$7,500 for the fiscal year. Mr. O. Z. Drale, at great length, discussed taxation, stating that because of all the new residences, etc., our tax rate should go down rather than up. There being no other comments, Councilman Spelman moved the first hearing on the 1952-53 Budget be closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter from H. Frank Lush, addressed to Mr. Carpenter, tendering his resignation from the Recreation Commission. Councilman Spelman moved the resignation be accepted and a letter of appreciation sent Mr. Lush for his services. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Street Superintendent Perkins advising that on September 1, 1952, Sam Webb would be automatically retired because of his age and recommending Mr. Webb be retained, as provided in Sec. 21001 of the Retirement Law, providing he can pass the medical examination. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from Shoreline Planning Association urging the City renew its membership. City Manager Stevens stated he believed we should again join. Councilman Drale moved the communication be sent to the Recreation Commission for its recommendation. Mr. Plomert stating this was a matter which vitally affects the City, asked that a copy be sent to the Chamber of Commerce for its study and recommendation. Councilman Drale so amended his motion. Councilman Benstead suggested the Council also go into the matter more thoroughly. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Claim submitted by the United States Post Office for damages to mail truck caused by City dump truck, in the amount of \$49.46. Councilman Spelman moved the claim be denied and referred to the insurance carrier. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Letter from Richfield Oil Corporation advising no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned from January 1, 1952 to June 30, 1952 under Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinances. Matter of record.

Letter from Tidewater Associated Oil Company advising no permits were issued nor pipe lines laid or removed from January 1 to June 30, 1952 under Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinances. Matter of record.

Letter from the Parking Authority recommending certain procedures for the procuring of off-street parking. As each member of the Council had received a copy of this letter, it was not read in full. Councilman Spelman moved the matter be held over for the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

AG 280

Letter from Water Superintendent McVicar recommending certain expenditures and minor changes in Ordinance No. 589. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager:

AWARD OF CONTRACTS:

1. That the bid of the Signal Oil Company for supplying Diesel fuel for the year 1952-53 be accepted and all other bids rejected.
2. That the bid of the Griffith Company, who submitted the lowest responsible bid for the improvement of 164th St. at a price of \$4.92 per ton for asphaltic concrete, be accepted and all other bids be rejected.
3. That the proposal of Logan Cotton for furnishing auditing services for 1952-53 be accepted.

Discussion was held on the proposal of Logan Cotton and Mr. Stevens explained that while Mr. Cotton's proposal was a little higher than that submitted by Mr. Fuld, certain duties were required of the auditor, on an hourly basis, and it was felt Mr. Cotton's services would be "cheaper in the long run" as he is an expert in municipal work while Mr. Fuld is "new in the field". In reply to inquiry by Councilman Drale, Mr. Stevens stated that neither gentleman lived in Torrance. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That the City dispose of the 1937 model Ford Fire Truck for the sum of \$1,000.
2. That an agreement be entered into with the Bank of America to act as collecting agent for the Water Department Bond Issue, to comply with the recommendations of Mr. Beebe for securing a wider and more favorable market for the bond.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

TRAFFIC CONTROL:

1. Four-way STOP signs at Fern Avenue and Carson Street.
2. Two-way STOP signs at:
 - (a) Elm Street at Carson Street
 - (b) Eshelman at 235th Street
 - (c) Walnut at 235th Street.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Letter from the Planning Commission advising that no parking requirements had been made by the Commission in connection with Case No. 240, petition of R. G. and J. E. Miller for a Variance and Conditional Permit to erect a store building on Torrance Blvd. between Date Ave. and Crenshaw Blvd. The matter was discussed by the members of the Council, resulting in a motion by Councilman Spelman that the Council "concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission re Case No. 240 on condition that the Variance include a parking area of 50' x 60' as designated on Exhibit 'A'". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission suggesting the preparation of a standard form for the forwarding of recommendations by the Commission to the Council be expedited, and that the form be prepared by the City Attorney. The proposed form was submitted by the City Attorney not being entirely satisfactory to Councilman Drale, Councilman Spelman moved the matter be discussed more fully at an agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick submitting Tract Map. No. 17921, approved by the Planning Commission on July 2, advising sanitary sewers will be installed, and recommending approval subject to proper arrangements being made for water service. The matter was discussed briefly as to the grading, etc. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation of the Commission and Mr. Patrick, with the provision that "it include planting on all slopes involved." Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2287

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUESTING A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE TO HOLD WEEKLY COURT SESSIONS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFTER JANUARY 1, 1953

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2287. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2288

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND COLLINS-DIETRICH AIR SERVICES, INC.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2288. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2289

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF HOLLYWOOD-PALOS VERDES PARKWAY TO PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2289. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2290

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT LEVIED UPON THE LAND WITHIN THE SEASIDE HEIGHTS SEWER DISTRICT TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF BINDEWALD ROAD AND CERTAIN OTHER SEWER DISTRICT BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Councilman Drale stated he had "come to the conclusion that the off-site sewer belongs to the people who paid for the sewer in the Seaside Heights District" and that "some way should be made to pay those people for that installation through the Dolley Tract. I know we have an ordinance covering the cost per front foot but I do not think it is adequate. I think it should be \$2.00 per front foot. The money spent for that off-site sewer should be accumulated by the City and refunded to those people ... I don't think there should be any free riders The new people who connect on can pay \$2.00 per front foot." He stated, further, that he thought a refund figure in the amount of approximately \$23,000 should be set forth in the ordinance as being due the people in Seaside Heights. City Attorney Hall stated that if the Council wished they could increase the connection fee, but that he did not believe they could establish any set sum as the refund due, as the City had no way of knowing how much would be collected, and if a set figure was named in the Ordinance, the City would be guaranteeing payment. Discussion followed at great length, and recess was declared at 9:08. Meeting reconvened at 9:18. Councilman Drale seconded the motion to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2290. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 603

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING STORING OF COMBUSTIBLE WASTE, INCINERATORS, BARBECUE PITS AND BURNING.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 603 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 604

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 3 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 604, at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 605

Councilman Spelman interrupted the reading to request that the sewer connection fee established in Section 3 of this Ordinance be changed from \$1.50 per front foot to \$2.25 per front foot. After making the change, Clerk Bartlett read the title to the Ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING A SEWER TRUST FUND, ESTABLISHING A SEWER CONNEC- TION, FEE, AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE FOR THE PAR- TIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN ASSESS- MENT DISTRICTS THAT HAVE INCURRED EXCESSIVE COSTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE PUBLIC SEWERS.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 605 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 606

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FIVE-STEP SALARY
RANGE PLAN FOR ALL POSITIONS IN THE CLASSIFIED
SERVICE AND ADDING CERTAIN POSITIONS TO THE
CLASSIFICATION PLAN.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Councilman Drale asked how soon civil service examinations would be called for on the new classifications and Mr. Stevens advised that a request had been prepared and was ready for the Civil Service Commission, and that "job descriptions" were also being prepared. Motion carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 606 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Thompson, of General Petroleum, stated that at a previous meeting, the Council had questioned the taxation of General Petroleum. He submitted to each Councilman a chart showing assessments for the past 5 years, and distribution of their tax dollars over the same period. He explained, at some length, that the "key" to General Petroleum's lower taxes for the last 2 years was due to reduced inventories, stating that in 1950 their assessed valuation reached a peak; that the Korean incident followed and demands of both the Government and business, had greatly reduced inventories since that time, causing a lessening in assessed valuation; further, that the "coke pile" had been sold to Great Lakes Carbon Company, which also accounted for some of the change in valuation. The Council thanked him for presenting the facts to them.

City Manager Stevens suggested the next agenda meeting be set for Tuesday, July 15th, at 5:30 P.M. rather than Wednesday. This being agreeable to all members of the Council, meeting date so set.

Mr. Stevens stated that at the last meeting, Tracts Nos. 18098 and 18180 had been referred to the Sewer Committee for a study of the possibility of sewerage for the two tracts; that the Committee had met with the developers and that, in view of the new ordinance providing for proportionate refunds and payments by future users, such sewer installations were agreeable to the developers. He recommended the tracts be approved subject to the installation of sanitary sewers. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

There being no other oral communications, Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:42 P.M. Councilman Spelman moved the meeting be adjourned to July 15, 1952, at 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of adopting Ordinance No. 604 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE